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## COVID-19

# The perils of Zoom classes

SJSU students and faculty raise concerns about the effectiveness of online teaching

By Andrew Glenn  
STAFF WRITER

The coronavirus pandemic has forced San Jose State to transition to an online setting for the foreseeable future, but there is some concern among students and staff about the effectiveness of these online courses.

Students have made the transition to Zoom, a trend that will likely continue as the Fall 2020 semester will consist of mostly online classes as precaution against COVID-19, stated Vincent Del Casino Jr., provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, in a campuswide email sent on April 30.

However, some students are finding it difficult to switch to online classes.

“Remote learning is great during this time, of course, but I liked having a routine where I’d get to get ready and leave the house,” English senior Yulissa Ferreira said in an Instagram message. “My professors are really putting in that extra effort to successfully transition our once in-person courses to online.”

But certain classes may be more difficult in an online setting because direct interaction with physical course materials can’t be replaced.

“I do not think that physical lessons such as labs can be performed online without reducing learning quality,” said Thuy Le, an electrical engineering professor and department chair, in an email. “Adding online components is

good but replacing a physical classroom/lab by online is not a good idea.”

Some students feel SJSU could do more to ease the strain of finances and grades.

“We are all doing our best to navigate things and the school is, too. But, as students of an institution that claims to care about their students’ well-being, the least they could do is live up to that claim,” psychology senior Victoria Fountain said in an Instagram message. “So many of us need financial help. There should be some kind

of reimbursement or partial refund of tuition. Online classes are not and never will be as productive, effective, personal, or meaningful as hands-on/in-person learning. Period.”

Students are not the only ones having trouble with the online transition as some faculty members share the same doubts about the efficacy of online classes on Zoom.

“I tried Zoom for a couple of

sessions, and then I abandoned it for the delivery of lecture material,” political science professor James Brent said. “Instead, I’m now recording my lectures and posting them to YouTube. The only reason we meet on Zoom is for active discussion, not for me to present information.”

Other faculty members believe that using Zoom is a beneficial tool, adding that it depends on students to do their part to further their education.

“It is possible that in some courses, students are required to read books and write an essay so the instructor could learn of students’ understanding of the

“

I do not think that physical lessons such as labs can be performed online without reducing learning quality.

Thuy Le

Electrical engineering professor and department chair

subject,” said Fred Barez, a mechanical and aerospace engineering professor, in an email. “Even in such courses without a laboratory component, students wish to discuss and argue different points of view. This certainly can be solved when Zoom is used and students could see each other to discuss their views.”

However, not every professor is holding classes through Zoom and some students are having a hard time learning with the new class format.

“My professors are definitely lacking in keeping class engaged. [Four-fifths] of my classes aren’t even meeting on Zoom or having online lectures,” biology freshman Iris Schmidt said in an Instagram message. “I just get emailed a list of assignments to do and I feel like I paid thousands of dollars just to teach myself the material.”

Follow Andrew on  
Twitter @SaviorElite10



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# Weed shops closed for recreational users

By Kellen Concentine  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

With the coronavirus pandemic forcing people to stay inside, one thing remains true: weed is still in high demand.

On March 19, California Gov. Gavin Newsom issued a statewide shelter-in-place order that forced most businesses to close and asked residents to remain at home in response to COVID-19. Those exempted were considered “Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers,” by Dr. Sonia Angell, the California state public health officer.

Marijuana dispensaries were deemed as “essential businesses” and will remain open in several states across the country along with grocery stores, hospitals and pharmacies.

“Access to legal, regulated and safe cannabis is essential, especially for California residents who rely on cannabis as their medicine,” Nicole Elliott, the California governor’s senior advisor on cannabis, said to the LA

Times in a March 30 article.

However, Newsom’s order leaves room for California cities and counties to adopt tougher standards that could require the closure of dispensaries, worrying those working in the industry.

“The cannabis industry is affected by this coronavirus just like everybody else,” said San Jose State recreation senior Keith McCullom II.

All in-store purchases of marijuana for non-medical customers is prohibited in Santa Clara County. However, recreational users can still purchase weed through delivery services such as United Pot Service and Caliva.

“Non-medical cultivation, supply and dispensing of cannabis are prohibited, with the exception of deliveries directly to residences,” states Santa Clara County’s Frequently Asked Questions page. “Dispensaries with a mixed clientele of both medical and non-medical customers can do in-person business only with medical customers.”

Theraleaf Relief is one of the dispensaries located in



ADAM YOSHIKAWA | SPARTAN DAILY ARCHIVES

Caliva receptionist Whitney Nunley (left) and Nicolette Dolcini (right) check in available patients at the dispensary.

San Jose that lost a significant amount of customers according to Leila Nakasone, a Theraleaf Relief employee. She said the dispensary normally has 500-600 patients a day.

She also said up to 95% of Theraleaf Relief’s clients are typically recreational users.

“At the time, we had like maybe 10 people out of the patients we would serve were medical,” Nakasone said over

the phone.

But many people argue that dispensaries are not essential and should not be open during this pandemic.

“Given the choice of marijuana-based FDA drugs available at pharmacies, deeming pot shops ‘essential’ makes no more sense than allowing tobacco stores,” said Kevin Sabet, head of the group Smart Approaches to Marijuana, a nonprofit that is

against marijuana legalization and commercialization as stated in an LA Times article.

With dispensaries losing customers, another alternative is to buy marijuana off the streets from a dealer.

The state’s decision to allow medical dispensaries to stay open gives street dealers the opportunity to compete with the black market while licensed growers and sellers have been hurt by high taxes

and strict regulation.

“The dispensaries in Santa Clara County are losing out on the recreational side of business, which in return are leading people to the streets,” engineering senior Arafat Aljabari said.

Follow Kellen on Twitter  
@KC\_Journalism\_



BRI'S BEAUTY

Makeup that doesn't break the bank

By Brianna Sheats  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

When it comes to shopping, people usually decide what to buy according to price.

Some people believe the quality of makeup is better depending on its price.

Honestly, that's a load of crap. The truth is, it's possible to purchase all the products you need for a full face of makeup without going into debt.

When it comes to buying makeup, there are different levels of pricing and brands. To break it down, there is drugstore makeup, affordable makeup, high brands and luxury makeup.

Drugstore makeup brands such as e.l.f., Maybelline, CoverGirl and wet n wild are extremely inexpensive and as their name implies, can be found at the drugstore.

Affordable makeup is often associated with drugstore makeup because the price points of both types are affordable. But in general, affordable makeup is slightly more expensive.

In the affordable makeup category are brands like BH Cosmetics, ColourPop Cosmetics and Morphe, which are known for high-brand quality, but at drugstore pricing.

These brands sell their products online at other retailers like Ulta and at their own stores.

The amazing quality of these affordable makeup brands is forcing cosmetic companies who sell their



“Dupes” (right) are affordable alternatives to high-priced makeup from luxury or designer brands (left).

products at drugstores to step up their standard of makeup.

Before the competition from affordable makeup, drugstore cosmetics included blotchy eyeshadow palettes, runny mascara and sheer foundations.

High-brand makeup is seen as better quality, but that isn't always true for some brands. These higher-priced products include brands like Fenty Beauty, Urban Decay, NARS and MAC Cosmetics, which can be found at stores like Sephora.

Luxury brand makeup like Dior, Chanel and Yves Saint Laurent are the most expensive makeup you can purchase and are often sold at high-end department stores like Nordstrom.

MAC Cosmetics was the “it brand” when it came to purchasing makeup back in the 2010s because many

I just believe having an immaculate makeup look doesn't mean you need to empty your bank account.

makeup YouTubers were MAC employees and would showcase the products.

If you did not own any MAC Cosmetics back in the day, you weren't considered a true makeup lover.

But continuously buying MAC products can empty your pockets, especially when you are in your early 20s and living paycheck to paycheck.

However, there is affordable makeup and even drugstore makeup that is just as good, if not

better than high brand or luxury makeup.

What's great about affordable brands is they make similar products to the expensive brands, but at a cheaper price.

These products range from lipsticks to blushes and are typically referred to as “dupes” because the products are practically the same when it comes to the color and how the product wears.

Dupes are everywhere, you just have to explore different brands to find them.

great foundation finish, but one bottle is \$49 for one fluid ounce.

Maybelline's foundations are some of the best when it comes to drugstore makeup and its SuperStay Full Coverage Foundation is the perfect dupe for the NARS foundation and costs only \$12 for the same amount of product.

High-brand skin care line Tatcha creates products to help with makeup application. One of its most popular items is the Silk Canvas Primer, which leaves your makeup looking flawless, but the price is a staggering \$52.

However, drugstore brand e.l.f. created the Poreless Putty Primer that works the same as Tatcha's, but for only \$8. It is a product that is a staple in my everyday makeup routine.

These are just a few of many dupes for high-brand makeup products that are amazing and could save you money.

I'm not saying all high brands are flat-out awful or that all drugstore products are amazing. I just believe achieving an immaculate makeup look doesn't mean you need to empty out your bank account.

Follow Brianna on Twitter |  
@briannaanna

*Editor's note: Senior staff writer Brianna Sheats works for the makeup brand Morphe.*

Correction

On Tuesday, May 5, the Spartan Daily published a story titled, “Professors adjust to parenting and Zoom” in which Jonathan Fung was misidentified.

The Spartan Daily regrets this error.

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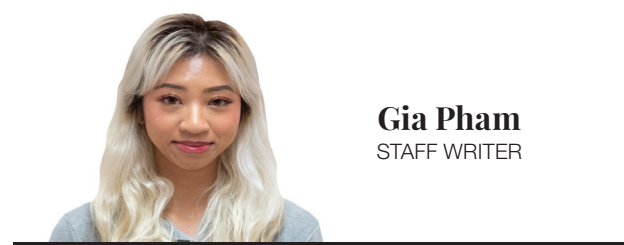
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# Don't reopen businesses just yet



Gia Pham  
STAFF WRITER

Stay-at-home orders in California should not be lifted or become lenient. State officials should not reopen businesses and recreational spaces until there is accessible testing regardless of citizenship or health care status, comprehensive health care for essential workers, unconditional paid sick leave and extensive unemployment compensations.

The U.S. leads the world with the highest confirmed coronavirus death toll, according to the World Health Organization.

reopened retail, outdoor recreation, dining and entertainment spaces on May 1, it saw the highest daily increase in COVID-19 deaths, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Texas also has the second-highest number of newly reported coronavirus cases after Illinois, according to The New York Times.

Reopening nonessential spaces in California is just asking for another wave of COVID-19 cases, which means more deaths and longer stay-at-home orders.



GIA PHAM | SPARTAN DAILY

Shanghai Bistro, a Chinese cuisine restaurant in Newark, California closed its doors and filpped its chairs onto the tables because of the coronavirus pandemic. Businesses such as this are not considered essential businesses.

... people will revert to their original routines and go out thinking that others will flatten the curve by staying at home ...

However, some states, mostly in the south and midwest, have already reopened or partially reopened businesses. But California should not follow the footsteps of these other states.

Hours before Texas

The lockdown is the only way to slow the spread and fully recover from the pandemic.

Wuhan, China, the epicenter of the pandemic, was on lockdown for 76 days, which was lifted when the country saw less than

100 new COVID-19 cases daily, according to the World Health Organization.

By comparison, California has been on lockdown for barely a month and a half and is seeing over 1,000 new coronavirus cases daily according to the California COVID-19 Statewide Update.

Instead of jumping at the opportunity to reopen the economy, we need to wait until the number of new cases decreases significantly and the number of people hospitalized because of COVID-19 stabilizes so we do not risk overcrowding hospitals.

If we reopen the economy too soon, the past month in quarantine will have been in vain. The purpose of the stay-at-home order is not to delay when people get the infection, but to decrease the number of people that become infected.

If the stay-at-home order even partially lifts right now, people will revert to their original routines and go out thinking that others will flatten the curve by staying at home, thereby increasing the number of deaths.

Some people may want to reopen businesses so those who can't work from home and are not paid on a salary basis can have an income.

However, according to a survey conducted in 14 countries from April 16 to 19 by the Institut de Publique Sondage d'Opinion Secteur, a global market research company, high-income households are more likely to want the economy to reopen during the pandemic rather than low or middle-income households.

Economists have said that these high-income households correlate to reopening the economy with the recovery of their stocks.

However, the economy reopening does not guarantee that people will go out more and spend money on nonessential purchases.

If businesses and entertainment spaces reopen, COVID-19 will continue to spread in ways reflective of the inequalities in our society.

Poor and marginalized communities will be more likely to catch the virus, experience the worst impacts and face the most obstacles during recovery.

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OPINIÓN

También cuiden latinos en la pandemia

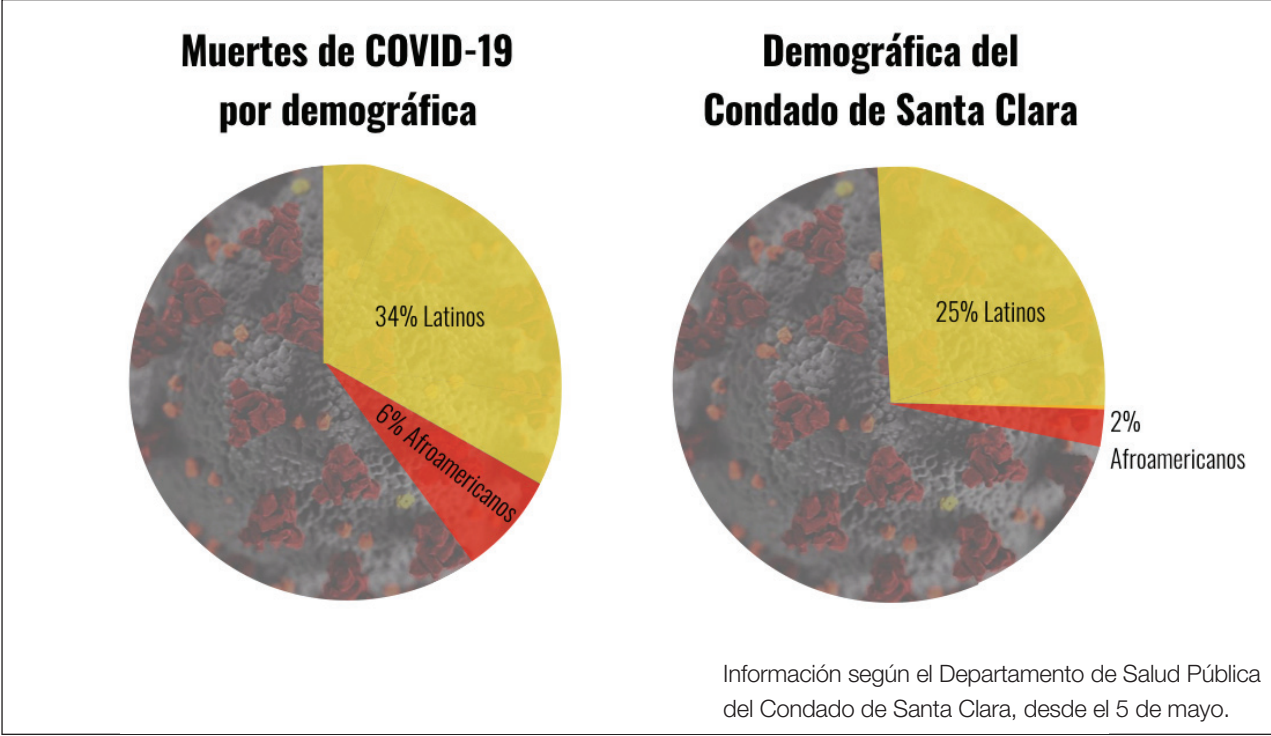


**Chris Pérez**  
REPORTERO

La primera muerte debido al coronavirus sucedió en San José y la mujer que murió era latina, según el San Francisco Chronicle. Este hecho es una parte de una cruda verdad: el coronavirus ha causado un efecto con latinos desproporcionado en cuanto a la población general en el sur del Área de la Bahía.

Los latinos son la mayoría de las muertes en el Condado de Santa Clara y es un problema crucial. Desde lunes, entre las 121 muertes de COVID-19 en el condado, 34% son latinos, mientras que el 6% son afroamericanos, aunque cada grupo representa aproximadamente el 25% y el 2.8% de la población del condado, respectivamente, según el Departamento de Salud Pública del Condado de Santa Clara. Hay personas que llaman este virus algo que igualiza la sociedad, pero en realidad inequidades raciales está empeorando las condiciones de la economía y salud para las minorías.

Nadie está sorprendido de esto. Este virus está demostrando que hay desigualdad en el cuidado de la salud y empleo en este país. “En la encuesta de



factores de riesgo de los CDC estima que casi el 16% de los afroamericanos, 4.8 millones de personas en total, no vieron a un médico cuando lo necesitaban en algún momento en los 12 meses anteriores a la encuesta porque no podían darse el lujo de ir, con Latinos cerca de 20%,” reporta FiveThirtyEight.

Los afroamericanos y latinos generalmente son los menos probables de tener cuidado de salud, según el CDC.

Los latinos son tres veces más probables de no tener seguro médico comparado con caucásicos, y doble con afroamericanos.

Esto es sin mencionar que los afroamericanos y latinos tienen tasas más altas en diabetes e hipertensión comparado con las otras minorías.

El coronavirus está afectando a los afroamericanos más fuerte

que otros grupos raciales en la nación, según El APM Research Lab. Aunque los afroamericanos solamente son 13% de la población en los Estados Unidos, ellos han sufrido 37.2% de las muertes, según El APM Research Lab.

Los latinos son la mayoría de las muertes en el Condado de Santa Clara y es un problema crucial.

En la ciudad de Nueva York, uno de los epicentros de la pandemia, los latinos son 29% de la población, pero han sufrido 34% de las muertes. Los datos también muestran que las muertes

entre los caucásicos son el 14.3% y entre los asiáticos americanos son el 16% según APM Research Lab. Esto es importante porque en un estudio en Italia reportado por Bloomberg, fue encontrado que el virus está matando predominantemente gente

con condiciones de salud. Es probable que los afroamericanos y latinos sean pobres y subrepresentados pero son valiosos en la fuerza laboral. Sin empleo, ellos

necesitan confiar en el gobierno. Los latinos también enfrentan un desafío adicional. Muchos, que no son ciudadanos, no son inelegibles para recibir los cheques de estímulo del gobierno federal aunque pagan impuestos. Estudiantes indocumentados son excluidos de los beneficios federales también. El gobernador de California Gavin Newsom está peleando para los indocumentados. Newsom anunció el 15 de abril un fondo de ayuda para desastre de \$75 millones para indocumentados Californianos impactados por COVID-19, ya que son inelegibles para beneficios de desempleo. Aproximadamente 150.000 Californianos indocumentados recibirán un cheque de \$500 por adulto, con un límite de

\$1.000 por casa. Gente puede aplicar a mediados de mayo. También el gobierno de California hizo una guía para inmigrantes Californianos en su página web CA.gov. Latinos indocumentados son los más vulnerables. Su trabajo típicamente requiere mucho contacto con gente, poniéndolos en alto riesgo de contraer el virus. Ahora mismo, la solución debe de ser asistencia como poner alojamiento temporal para los que están a punto de perder su vivienda y distribuir más dinero en los bolsillos de los residentes de los Estados Unidos. Esto es necesario pero no resuelve las disparidades raciales. Tenemos que trabajar contra la igualdad, tomando ventaja de esta oportunidad. Necesitamos identificar y aceptar el problema. Líderes políticos tienen que exigir más recursos para los latinos y otros grupos que están sufriendo injustamente debido al coronavirus. “Me enfureció que las disparidades que han afectado a esta ciudad, esta nación, que tienen que ver con la desigualdad fundamental, una vez más están causando tanto dolor y causando que personas inocentes pierdan la vida,” Bill de Blasio, el alcalde de la ciudad de Nueva York dijo en inglés, “Es simplemente abundantemente claro. Es enfermizo. Es preocupante. Está incorrecto. Y vamos a luchar con todo lo que tenemos.”

Sigue El Espartano en Twitter @elespartanosjsu

OPINIÓN

Digan ‘no’ al fraude matrimonial



**Kathia Sánchez**  
REPORTERA

A veces, un matrimonio se basa más en beneficios que el amor. Hay personas que renuncian a la pasión para casarse con ciudadanos de los Estados Unidos. Esta manera de obtener la ciudadanía estadounidense tiene consecuencias graves en el futuro. Los inmigrantes que viven en los Estados Unidos enfrentan un proceso complicado para obtener su ciudadanía o tarjeta de residencia. Cuando un inmigrante se casa con un ciudadano, el proceso de solicitud y aprobación tiene prioridad sobre otros casos. La aprobación o denegación para ser residente legal sin estar casado es de 7 a 33 meses, dependiendo del tipo de la tarjeta de residencia que solicite el inmigrante. Una opción más fácil y rápida para convertirse en ciudadano es casarse con alguien que ya tiene la ciudadanía. Los inmigrantes temen por sus vidas cuando están en los Estados Unidos porque pueden ser deportados. Usualmente, esperan tiempos largos para calificar para las protecciones de ciudadanos y residentes. Por ejemplo, alguien que conocía se encontraba en una situación difícil cuando cruzó la frontera porque no tenía familia viviendo en los Estados Unidos. Conoció a una mujer que estaba



ILUSTRACIÓN CORTESÍA DE PIXABAY

dispuesta a ayudarlo casándose con él. El acuerdo fue que ella se casaría con él a cambio de su compañía. Aceptó el acuerdo porque temía ser deportado. No estaban enamorados en el comienzo, pero ella se enamoró de él después de casarse y vivir juntos. Luego,

mi tío obtuvo su tarjeta de residencia y quiso divorciarse. Ella negó su solicitud porque todavía quería estar con él a pesar de que sabía que él no la amaba. Después de unos años, se divorciaron y él se casó con otra persona.

Los que se casan por este interés pueden ser investigados por el Servicio de Ciudadanía e Inmigración de los Estados Unidos (USCIS) por fraude matrimonial. Un fraude matrimonial puede ser declarado por cualquier evidencia que demuestra que el propósito del matrimonio no fue realmente para comenzar una vida juntos. Según el USCIS, “entre un tercio y un quinto de las solicitudes basadas en matrimonio recibidas se basan en fraude.” Hay consecuencias de fraude matrimonial tanto para el inmigrante como para el ciudadano. El inmigrante puede ser deportado, tener su residencia revocada si corresponde y poner en peligro cualquier intento futuro de obtener una tarjeta de residencia. La ley en I.N.A. Sección 275 (c) dice: “Cualquier individuo que a sabiendas contraiga matrimonio con el propósito de evadir cualquier disposición de las leyes de inmigración será encarcelado por no más de cinco años, o multado con no más de \$ 250,000, o ambos.” No importa el miedo, la ira o la tristeza que pueda sentir un inmigrante. El amor debería ser el fundamento de cada matrimonio. No vale la pena estar en un matrimonio sin amor y pasión en cambio de poder vivir legalmente en los Estados Unidos. El sueño americano muere cuando se sacrifica la felicidad y los deseos genuinos. El matrimonio es sagrado y es un privilegio unirse con el amor de tu vida. No se debe de irrespetar por la política de inmigración.

Sigue Kathia en Twitter @Kat\_JSánchez